

# **Tribal Health Research Office**

**Council of Councils  
January 29, 2016**

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Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic  
Initiatives**

# Tribal Consultation

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- Executive Order 13175 (2000)
  - “Each agency shall have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely ***input by tribal officials*** in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications.”
  - “***Tribal officials***” are elected or duly appointed officials of Indian tribal governments or authorized intertribal organizations.
- Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (2009)
  - “My Administration is committed to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration ***with tribal officials*** in policy decisions that have tribal implications...”

# HHS Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP)

## (Revised 2010)

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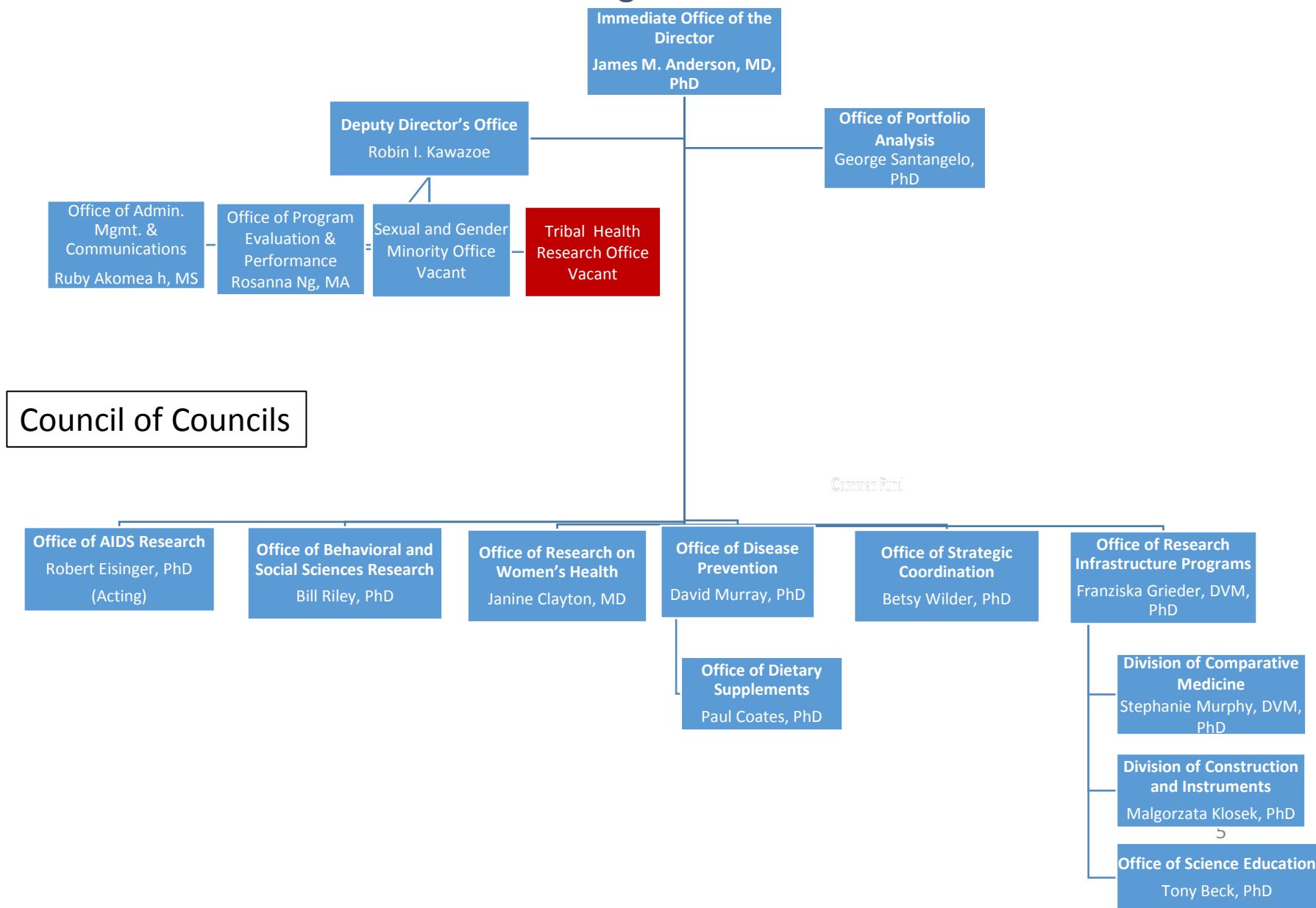
- The TCP states that before any HHS action is taken that will significantly affect Indian Tribes, consultation with Indian Tribes will occur to the extent practicable and permitted by law.
  - Calls on HHS Operating Divisions to have an accountable process to ensure input by tribes.

# NIH Guidance on Implementation of the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy (2013)

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- “A consultation will occur when HHS, NIH, or an Indian Tribe identifies an NIH action with substantial direct effects for one or more Indian Tribe.”
- The NIH OD, through DPCPSI, will ensure adherence to HHS TCP.
- Each IC must have Point of Contact (POC).
  - <http://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-we-do/get-involved-nih/tribal-activities-points-contact>
- DPCPSI is the central coordinating point.

# January 2016 - Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives



# Selected Highlights of NIH Implementation of HHS TCP

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- NIH will hold at least one annual NIH-wide Tribal Consultation session.
  - First consultation held on September 21, 2015.
- Established a Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC)
  - First meeting held September 29-30, 2015.
  - Two meetings to be held per year.
  - Next meeting is February 25-26, 2016.
  - TCAC meeting is not a substitute for Tribal Consultation.

# Ad Hoc Consultation

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- A tribe may initiate an ad hoc consultation by sending a written request for the consultation to the NIH or, if the NIH requests the consultation, to the appropriate Indian leadership.

# NIH Responsibilities

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- Bring relevant issues/policies to tribes for consultation.
- Respond to requests for consultation through specified processes and meeting specified time-lines.
  - See Section E of the Implementation Guidance.

# **Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC)**

# TCAC cont'd.

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- Serve as an established venue where Indian Tribal representatives can advise the NIH regarding the government-to-government consultation process.
- Ensure that NIH research policies and program priorities that affect their Tribes are brought to the attention of all affected parties.
- Ensure that Indian Tribal representatives have meaningful and timely input in the development of relevant NIH policies, programs, and priorities.

# TCAC Charter - Committee Activities

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- Serve as a forum for Tribes and the NIH to:
  - Address issues;
  - Discuss proposals for changes to NIH policies, regulations, and procedures;
  - Explore opportunities for participation in other groups;
  - Provide advice on cultural and technical issues;
  - Bring pertinent issues to the attention of Tribes.

# TCAC Charter: Membership

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- Representation from each of the 12 geographic areas served by the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- One representative (and designated alternate) for each of five National at-large Tribal member positions (5 total).
- Membership:  
[https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIHTCACRoster\\_508.pdf](https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIHTCACRoster_508.pdf)

# Tribal Health Research Office

- Established in DPCPSI in fall 2015
- Currently recruiting for the Office Director
- Website: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro>



The screenshot displays the official website of the Tribal Health Research Office (THRO). The header features the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and National Institutes of Health logos, along with a search bar and links for 'Printer Friendly' and 'Text Size'. The main navigation menu on the left includes links to DPCPSI Home, About DPCPSI, NIH Common Fund, Council of Councils, Trans-NIH Collaborations, Office of Portfolio Analysis, Office of Program Evaluation & Performance, Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office, and the Tribal Health Research Office (highlighted). The main content area, titled 'Tribal Health Research Office', provides an overview of the office's establishment in 2015 and its mission to ensure meaningful input from tribal nations. It lists several key functions: coordinating tribal health research activities, serving as a liaison to tribal health-related committees, supporting the NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee, collaborating on reports, managing information dissemination, convening trans-NIH committees, and coordinating with NIH Institutes and Centers to leverage resources. A 'RELATED INFORMATION' sidebar on the right includes links to the NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC) Charter, Members (PDF), Meetings (9/29-30, 2015 and 2/25-28, 2018), Tribal Consultation Sessions Meeting Summary (9/21, 2015), NIH Funding Support, and Policies and Guidance (NIH Guidance on Implementation of HHS Tribal Consultation Policy).

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• DPCPSI Home

• About DPCPSI

• NIH Common Fund

• Council of Councils

• Trans-NIH Collaborations

• Office of Portfolio Analysis

• Office of Program Evaluation & Performance

• Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office

• **Tribal Health Research Office**

• Office of Administrative Management & Communications

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## Tribal Health Research Office

Established in 2015, the Tribal Health Research Office is located in the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the Director (OD), NIH. The office was created in recognition of the importance of ensuring meaningful input from and collaboration with tribal Nations on NIH programs and policies. The Tribal Health Research Office functions are to:

- coordinate tribal health research-related activities across NIH
- serve as a liaison to and NIH representative on tribal health related committees and working groups
- coordinate and support the NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee
- collaborate with NIH Institutes and Centers on the development of reports on tribal health topics
- manage information dissemination related to tribal health research coordination
- convene trans-NIH committees, workshops, meetings and other activities related to tribal health research and scientific priorities
- coordinate with NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) to leverage resources or develop initiatives to support tribal health research
- convene at least yearly Tribal Consultation sessions

### RELATED INFORMATION

NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC)

- Charter
- Members (PDF, 3 Pages)
- Meetings
  - 9/29-30, 2015
  - 2/25-28, 2018

Tribal Consultation Sessions Meeting Summary, 9/21, 2015

NIH Funding Support

### Policies and Guidance

- NIH Guidance on Implementation of HHS Tribal Consultation Policy

# Tribal Health Research Office

## Functions

- Coordinate tribal health research-related activities across NIH;
- Serve as a liaison to and NIH representative on tribal health related committees and working groups;
- Coordinate and support the NIH [Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee](#);
- Collaborate with NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) on the development of reports on tribal health topics;
- Manage information dissemination related to tribal health research coordination;
- Convene trans-NIH committees, workshops, meetings and other activities related to tribal health research and scientific priorities;
- Coordinate with NIH ICs to leverage resources or develop initiatives to support tribal health research;
- Convene at least yearly Tribal Consultation sessions.

**Comments or Questions?**